

South Park Stakeholders Group – SOBO Meeting
Wednesday, February 3, 9:30 AM
1100 S. Flower St. #3400, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Committee Members: Bob Buente, Sonnet Hui, Denise Mendoza (for Paul Keller), James Pugh (phone)

Staff/Contract: Jessica Lall, Priscilla Hsu, Sergio Urena, Victor Gonzalez, Josh Kreger

Guests: Alex Chan, Francis Langlois, Terry Rubinroit

TOTAL Guests: 6

<i>Item</i>	<i>Discussion</i>
Public Comment/Introductions	Called to order by Bob Buente at 9:31 AM
<i>No Action Taken</i>	Public comment by Terry Rubinroit: I have to make a comment on the noise issue. It was called in at 8:30 PM, maybe they could have done patrols—I don't know what to do. Someone is illegally renting out the space. The crowd it attracts is all over the front of the sidewalks and the streets. We've called LAPD but we really don't get a response.
Presentation: Circa Project Update, Alex Chan - LendLease <i>N/A</i>	LendLease gave a presentation on the progress of the Circa Project, which has already poured the mad slab/foundation. One lane of Flower will be closed temporarily. They plan to come in every 6-8 months or anytime there's a critical activity upcoming to give a project update. Sergio Urena: Restaurants on Figueroa complained to us that there is no foot traffic allowed past Figueroa. Alex Chan: There should be. Turn over that email and we'll address it, definitely.
Review and recommend approval for preliminary My Fig Design	We've released an RFQ and selected the Griffith, Psomas, MElendrez, KOA team. They've done a survey on preliminary design observations. We haven't defined the project scope but we are hoping to do that today with construction costs, materials, contractor costs. It's substantial for us but isn't enough to take on every project. Jessica Lall presented on behalf of the project team.

<p>Review and recommend approval for preliminary My Fig Design continued</p> <p><i>Bob Buente moves to recommend approval of the preliminary My Fig Design. Sonnet Hui seconds the motion.</i></p> <p><i>All in favor.</i> <i>None opposed.</i> <i>No abstentions.</i></p>	<p>They've taken an inventory on design successes within the local context of the area here in South Park. We're really looking at the area around the Pico Metro Stop, around Figueroa moving into 11th. This is the gateway to downtown and South Park. The Blue Line is the most frequented per passenger line in the country.</p> <p>What's been successful in South Park range from South Park BID projects to housing development initiatives – public art, etc.</p> <p>They also took pictures of the unattractive spaces – lack of wayfinding and signage, warped sidewalks, unattractive pedestrian spaces, empty tree wells, low visibility crosswalks. Pico has a general unattractiveness. There are no development plans for the blocks – when you look into the future you see the West side of Pico with development, and the other side with the Metro will remain a stark comparison. The paving along the street could be enhanced, lights could be better. Places that appear unsafe attract bad behavior, which is why this point in particular is significant.</p> <p>Opportunities that exist: (note: these are preliminary designs and have not yet been approved by the City) creative space, redesigning the median and walkway space.</p> <p>Terri Rubinroit: One of the important places to get lighting is between the Metro Station and 12th.</p> <p>Jessica Lall: That is certainly a priority of ours, even if we do not get the funding through this project. We recognize and want it to be a hub that people can walk safely down.</p> <p>Terri Rubinroit: Is there an opportunity to wrap the vacant-looking buildings in ads or something for Staples?</p> <p>Jessica Lall: Flower St activation plan wants to reach out to the owners on how to better utilize the property space.</p> <p>Terri Rubinroit: Last comment, besides pedestrian access. When you're westbound on Pico, heading South, and you need to turn left on Flower, is there something we can do so that you're not waiting for the left turn on the tracks?</p> <p>Jessica Lall: We're not allowed to do anything with cars because this money is designated for pedestrian use only, but we will bring it up with Metro when we meet with them.</p>
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	<p>Sonnet Hui: This is very exciting. The great thing about focusing on this is that this is like the Master Plan and the ideas can be replicated in other areas.</p> <p>Jessica Lall: We're on a fast timeline to have this committee recommend approval to the Board, approve by the Board, take it to the City for approval, Melendrez will draw it out and Griffith will price it.</p> <p>Josh Kreger: I want to thank Sonnet for assisting us with identifying legal counsel.</p>
<p>Update on South Park Green Alley Pilot Project</p> <p>No Action Taken</p>	<p>The council office has put forward a motion for the Green Alley initiatives to work with South Park first on a pilot project. For those of you who are interested in this project, come to our next SOBO meeting and we will be going through the details of where we're vetting specifically.</p>
<p>Update on USC Data</p> <p>No Action Taken</p>	<p>We were put in touch with a PhD program that utilizes resources to deploy safety to divert criminal behavior. Victor and Sergio sent over 18 months of data to analyze when things happen and what happens where. We are the first BID that I know of that is entering into this kind of agreement, and best of all it is of no charge to the BID.</p>
<p>Review and recommend approval of The Spot @ Hope St concept design and allocation of funding pending sufficient TMP from LADOT</p> <p>Bob Buente moves to recommend The Spot @ Hope St concept and design and allocation of funding pending sufficient Traffic Management Plan from LADOT. Sonnet Hui seconds the motion.</p> <p>All in favor. None opposed.</p>	<p>We want to try this out for 8 weeks. We don't want to do anything permanent or aggressive without knowing what the implications will be. We're fortunate to have Melendrez work with us pro bono on a design, and DoArt through a public art strategic plan working with us on programming. Our first community meeting on this was last week. We've been meeting with the businesses along Hope St., Luma HOA board—our outreach tells us that from a general sense we had 10 people in support, 6 people who were neutral, 3 who were rather anti. People have been submitting their comments for the The Spot @ Hope St.</p> <p>There were traffic concerns so we had a meeting with LADOT and what I can share is that the left hand turn from 11th St will be removed – which actually means that there should be less traffic on Hope as you won't be able to turn left on 11th. They think it'll actually improve all traffic on Hope because you'll have to go around.</p> <p>Melendrez did a layout of all the loading zones. The best one we could agree to for design, function and servicing Luma is to convert the 2 metered spaces in front of PYO gallery and in front of the vacant Hope</p>

<p>No abstentions.</p>	<p>St Hotel.</p> <p>We'll be working with Placemeter a census counter to capture pedestrian activity 1 month before the installation, during, and 2 months after so that we have hard data to determine its effects.</p> <p>Terri Rubinroit: Have there been any negative problems with the parklet?</p> <p>Victor Gonzalez: No graffiti, no issues with people hanging out on it.</p> <p>Jessica Lall: I haven't seen or heard any complaints with transients.</p> <p>Terri Rubinroit: I didn't originally bring up the left turn on 11th but it makes sense to me, especially because you can't go a whole lot further than Figueroa off 11th anyway – so removing it would be a good solution for traffic.</p> <p>Jim Pugh: I have 3 comments in particular – maintaining the functionality of the urban frontdoor of Luma is important. On programming of the space, what you can put in a green space with traffic on its fringes needs to be very smart programming so that we can accomplish our goal of enlivening the area. On design, I provided some notes after the meeting on things to present that should get people who are on the fence more engaged.</p> <p>Jessica Lall: On the note of programming, we need to make sure the design is acceptable enough to the majority of people to get that moving with the City.</p> <p>Terry Rubinroit: Michelle at the last meeting at Evo dipped her toe into the water of introducing the park and the reaction was surprised to hear that you wanted a park in the middle of the street and that you wouldn't be able to turn.</p> <p>Jessica Lall: You'll still have one lane to turn. We aren't taking that away from you. Laura's reaching out to speak to Evo at the next board meeting.</p> <p>Francis Langlois: Are these speed-calming strips or just a crosswalk?</p> <p>Josh Kreger: It's a crosswalk.</p> <p>Francis Langlois: When you do strike it out, please keep in mind that there's a gap between the planter area so that people aren't stepping</p>
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	<p>out into a weird gap. There's an even bigger gap by the bakery.</p> <p>Sonnet Hui: Something needs to happen before the park to create a funnel or direct people to give them enough time to make a decision about turning. You don't want people to drive right into the park stop. Also, people will be using it to cross, so keep that in mind when building the railings.</p> <p>Denise Mendoza: I think it's a great idea. I don't know see how living in an urban area how residents don't want more pedestrian traffic.</p> <p>Jessica Lall: I did my best to come up with a proposed review and recommend. What I would suggest is knowing that the community outreach needs to continue and to review and recommend approval of the Hope St concept and design, review pending study from DOT. Nothing will move forward unless we get a sound traffic management plan from DOT. We need to be able to show them something, however.</p> <p>Bob Buente: Getting a plan to the City has no cost, correct?</p> <p>Jessica Lall: Not the plan, no. The overall budget is \$80-100,000. DOT is donating the traffic plan for free. The rest of the money will come out of money we've raised in other places – not assessment money. There's opportunity for sponsorship.</p> <p>Sonnet Hui: That's pretty good.</p>
<p>Update: <i>No Action Taken</i></p>	<p>1. Parklet Ribbon Cutting 2. Triple 8 Green Carpet – February 3, 2016, 6:00 – 8:00 PM 3. SPSG Board Meeting – February 25, 2016, 8:30 AM</p> <p>Next meeting: April 6, 2016; 9:30 AM</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Adjourned at: 10:44 AM Minutes recorded by: Priscilla Hsu</p>

NEXT STEPS:

1. My Fig preliminary design to go to full board for approval.
2. The Spot @ Hope St. concept and design and allocation of funding pending sufficient Traffic Management Plan from LADOT to go to full board for approval.

3. Meet with Metro and My Fig project team to discuss improvements at Pico Metro Station.
4. Refine My Fig design.
5. Meet with LADOT to discuss lane striping and signage at The Spot @ Hope St. and Traffic Management Plan.
6. Refine design and materials for The Spot @ Hope St.